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EXAMINER

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/947,435

Applicant(s)

Ferguson et al

Examiner

Ella Colbert

Group Art Unit

2771



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Oct 8, 1997

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire Three month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-83 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-83 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 2

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103© and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa et al (US 5,608,874), hereafter Ogawa.

In regard to claim 1, “importing a document having a first format into the computer system” (**column 1, in particular lines 24-53**), “storing the document in a memory location” (**column 14, in particular lines 18-28**), “automatically extracting attribute data from the document” (**column 15, in particular lines 5-18**) and “generating a data structure for the

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document, wherein said data structure contains the attribute data in a second format independent of the said first format” (**column 16, in particular lines 18-30**).

In regard to claim 2, “optically scanning a paper-based document” (**column 26, in particular lines 42-57**) and converting the optically scanned document into an electronic document (**column 26, in particular lines 58-67 and column 27, in particular lines 1-24**).

In regard to claim 3, “wherein the first format is an image format” (**column 27, in particular lines 25-55**).

In regard to claim 4, “wherein the first format is a text format” (**column 28, in particular lines 22-28**).

In regard to claim 5, “importing an electronic document” (**column 5, in particular lines 61-65 and column 6, in particular lines 65-67**).

In regard to claim 6, “wherein the first format is a text format” (**column 28, in particular lines 22-28**).

In regard to claim 7, “wherein the document is a word processing document” was not disclosed by Ogawa, but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of documents at the time the invention was made for the document to be a word processing document because word processing is prepared in clearly worded, readable text without elaborate design or typography.

In regard to claim 8, “wherein the document is an e-mail message” (**column 11, in particular lines 42-55**).

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In regard to claim 9, “wherein the first format is an image format” (**column 28, in particular lines 39-67**).

In regard to claim 10, “wherein the first format is an HTML format” was not disclosed by Ogawa, but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of formats at the time the invention was made for the document to be in HTML format because HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) is a set of codes that can be inserted into text files to indicate special features such as typefaces, inserted images and links to other hypertext documents on the Internet and almost any word processor or page layout can be used to produce HTML.

In regard to claim 11, “wherein the second format comprises as least one data field” (**column 16, in particular lines 31-53**).

In regard to claim 12, “wherein the at least one data field contains a file name” (**column 15, in particular lines 66-67 and column 16, in particular lines 1-30**).

In regard to claim 13, “wherein the at least one data field contains the memory location” (**column 23, in particular lines 36-55**).

In regard to claim 14, “wherein the data field contains a bit map” (**column 28, in particular lines 1-13**).

In regard to claim 15, “wherein the data field contains raw text” (**column 29, in particular lines 26-40**).

In regard to claim 16, “wherein the data field contains a data attribute” (**column 15, in particular lines 18-23**).

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In regard to claim 17, “wherein the data attribute is an author name” was not disclosed by Ogawa, but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of data attributes at the time the invention was made for the attribute to be an author name because when a document collection is searched using a search engine to search documents that fit a users criteria includes text and other attributes.

In regard to claim 18, “wherein the data attribute is a publication date” was not disclosed by Ogawa, but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of publication dates at the time the invention was made for the attribute to be a publication date because the user can perform a search using a search engine to search through a document collection for that particular attribute.

In regard to claim 19, “wherein the data attribute is a word count” (**column 24, in particular lines 6-20**).

In regard to claim 20, “wherein the data attribute is an annotation” was not disclosed by Ogawa, but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of annotations at the time the invention was made for the data attribute to be an annotation because an annotation is used as an attachment to part of a document that provides related information and a user can either include or exclude the annotation when searching.

In regard to claim 21, “wherein the data attribute is a keyword” was not disclosed by Ogawa, but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of using keywords

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at the time the invention was made to have a data attribute because in particular programming languages and searching keywords have a special meaning.

In regard to claim 22, “wherein the data attribute is an image type” (**column 27, in particular lines 58-67 and column 28, in particular lines 1-4**).

In regard to claim 23, “wherein the data attribute is an image dimension” (**column 28, in particular lines 38-53**).

In regard to claim 24, “wherein the data attribute is meta-text with positioning information” was not disclosed by Ogawa, but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of meta-text at the time the invention was made to have positioning information because meta-text refers to the particular attributes of a document and serves to identify where the document belongs.

3. Claims 25-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa in view of Burrows (US 5,797,008).

In regard to claim 25, Ogawa did not disclose: “comprising the step of extracting indexing information from the attribute data in the data structure.”

Burrows disclosed this in **column 2, in particular lines 3-24**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of extracting indexing information at the time the invention was made to combine Ogawa’s document format with Burrows indexing information because each document in a document collection has a cross-reference with its attributes stored in an STG file to be extracted.

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In regard to claim 26, Ogawa did not disclose: “monitoring modifications to the document” and “extracting updated indexing information.”

Burrows disclosed this in **column 15, in particular lines 26-41 and column 14, in particular lines 1-19**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of document modifications at the time the invention was made to combine Ogawa’s automatic data extraction with Burrows monitoring of document modifications and updating an index because the information is compared in the indexing database with one or more searched terms or attributes supplied by a user.

In regard to claim 27, Ogawa nor Burrows disclosed: “the attribute data being derived from a data field comprising raw text data,” but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of raw text data at the time the invention was made to have a data field because the data field shows the raw text that is associated with a corresponding document.

In regard to claim 28, Ogawa did not disclose: “identify the document from amongst other documents in the document collection utilizing the indexing information.”

Burrows disclosed this in **column 24, in particular lines 61-67 and column 25, in particular lines 1-7**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of document identification at the time the invention was made to combine Ogawa’s text format with Burrows indexing information because the indexing database maintains keywords or attributes that are associated with each document in the document collection and support the document search function.

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In regard to claim 29, Ogawa did not disclose: "linking the document to a first electronic folder if the attribute data matches a set of predefined criteria corresponding to the first electronic folder."

Burrows disclosed this in **column 3, in particular lines 48-58**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of document linking at the time the invention was made to combine Ogawa's document importing with Burrows document linking because particular behavioral tasks are performed with the documents linked to an electronic folder and with user defined criteria.

In regard to claim 30, Ogawa did not disclose: "electronically analyzing the attribute data stored in the data structure corresponding to the document" and determining whether the document is to be automatically linked to the first electronic folder."

Burrows disclosed this in **column 8, in particular lines 36-57 and column 6, in particular lines 28-37**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of analyzing data attributes at the time the invention was made to combine Ogawa's memory location with Burrows stored data structure because the user can generate the data from where the document is stored.

Ogawa nor Burrows disclosed: "identifying the document on an inclusion list if it is determined that the document is not automatically linked to the first document," but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of document identification at the time the invention was made to have an inclusion list because the inclusion list identifies documents that

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are not included in the category associated with the electronic folder during the process of categorization.

In regard to claim 31, Ogawa did not disclose: “electronically analyzing the attribute data stored in the data structure corresponding to the document.”

Burrows disclosed this in **column 8, in particular lines 36-57**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of analyzing data attributes at the time the invention was made to combine Ogawa’s memory location with Burrows stored data structure because the user can generate the data from where the document is stored.

Ogawa nor Burrows disclosed: “determining whether the document is to be automatically excluded from being linked to the first electronic folder” and “identifying the document on an exclusion list if it is determined that the document is not to be automatically excluded from being linked to the first electronic folder,” but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of document folders and exclusion lists at the time the invention was made to have an exclusion list because the exclusion list identifies the documents that were excluded from the electronic folder during the categorization process and provides the user with the category criteria associated with that category.

In regard to claim 32, Owaga did not disclose: “monitoring the document modifications.”

Burrows disclosed this in **column 15, in particular lines 26-41**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of document modifications at the time the invention

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was made to combine Owaga's text format with Burrow's monitoring document modifications because the user can change the document data by deleting or by additions to the document.

Ogawa nor Burrows disclosed: "automatically linking the document to a second electronic folder if a document modification causes the attribute data to match a set of predefined criteria corresponding to the second electronic folder," but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of document linking at the time the invention was made to match the predefined criteria because if a user modifies the contents of the document the modification can change the links and the document is modified to reflect the created links with the user's predefined criteria that correspond to the second electronic folder.

In regard to claim 33, Ogawa did not disclose: "monitoring document modifications."

Burrows disclosed this in **column 15, in particular lines 26-41**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of document modifications at the time the invention was made to monitor the modifications because the user can change the document data by deleting or by additions to the document.

Owaga nor Burrows disclosed: "automatically deleting the link between the document and the first electronic folder if a document modification causes the attribute information to no longer match the set of predefined criteria corresponding to the first electronic folder," but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of link deletion at the time the invention was made to combine Owaga's data field with Burrows first electronic folder because if the user deletes an entire document all of the links associated with that document are deleted.

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In regard to claim 34, Owaga did not disclose: “wherein the attribute data is a document title.”

Burrows disclosed this in **column 9, in particular lines 46-56**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of document modifications at the time the invention was made to combine Ogawa’s first format with Burrows document title because the document has the attributes associated with that document.

In regard to claim 35, Owaga did not disclose: “wherein the attribute data is a document author.”

Burrows disclosed this in **column 10, in particular lines 9-14**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of attribute data at the time the invention was made to combine Ogawa’s attribute data extraction with Burrows document author because when a document collection is searched using a search engine to search documents that fit a users criteria includes text and other attributes.

In regard to claim 36, Owaga did not disclose: “wherein the attribute data is a phrase associated with the document.’

Burrows disclosed this in **column 16, in particular lines 31-34**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of phrases at the time the invention was made to combine Ogawa’s word processing with Burrows attribute data because the attribute data is associated with the corresponding document in the indexing database.

In regard to claim 37, Owaga did not disclose: “wherein the attribute data is a key word.”

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Burrows disclosed this in **column 10, in particular lines 17-24 and column 16, in particular lines 20-25**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of key words at the time the invention was made to combine Ogawa's second format with Burrows attribute data being a key word because in particular programming languages and searching keywords have a special meaning.

In regard to claim 38, Owaga did not disclose: "wherein the data attribute is a common concept."

Burrows disclosed this in **column 8, in particular lines 20-25**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of common concepts at the time the invention was made to combine Ogawa's document text with Burrows data attribute because the basic search allows a user to retrieve documents that fit or match the attribute data of a number of user defined conditions relating to text, metadata and the document format.

In regard to claim 39, Owaga nor Burrows did not disclose: "automatically manipulating the document based on a predefined behavior associated with the first electronic folder," but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of document manipulation at the time the invention was made to have a first electronic folder because a user can program a folder with particular behavioral characteristics.

In regard to claim 40, Owaga did not disclose: "wherein the predefined behavior is ~~user-~~defined behavior."

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Burrows disclosed this in **column 5, in particular lines 18-26**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of user-predefined behavior at the time the invention was made to combine Ogawa's data structure with Burrows predefined behavior because the user can program the folder to perform particular tasks that are performed automatically with the documents linked to an electronic folder.

In regard to claim 41, Owaga did not disclose: "wherein the predefined behavior involves e-mailing the document to a preprogrammed e-mail address."

Burrows disclosed this in **column 6, in particular lines 42-46**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of predefined behavior at the time the invention was made to combine Ogawa's scanning a document with Burrows preprogrammed e-mail address because the user can program an electronic folder to automatically e-mail all of the documents that are stored in that folder to a particular e-mail address.

In regard to claim 42, Owaga did not disclose: "wherein the predefined behavior involves providing controlled access to the document."

Burrows disclosed this in **column 13, in particular lines 44-62**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of providing controlled access at the time the invention was made to combine Ogawa's document structure generation with Burrows providing controlled access to a document because the user can program an electronic folder to display periodic updates to the folder.

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In regard to claim 43, Owaga nor Burrows did not disclose: "linking the document to a folder, wherein the folder has associated with it a predefined behavior and automatically manipulating the document in accordance with the predefined behavior," but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of document manipulation at the time the invention was made to have a folder and to manipulate it automatically because particular behavioral tasks are performed with the documents linked to an electronic folder and with user defined criteria and a user can program a folder with particular behavioral characteristics.

In regard to claim 44, Owaga did not disclose: "wherein the predefined behavior is user-defined behavior."

Burrows disclosed this in **column 5, in particular lines 18-26**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of user-predefined behavior at the time the invention was made to combine Ogawa's data structure with Burrows predefined behavior because the user can program the folder to perform particular tasks that are performed automatically with the documents linked to an electronic folder.

In regard to claim 45, Owaga did not disclose: "wherein the predefined behavior involves e-mailing the document to a preprogrammed e-mail address."

Burrows disclosed this in **column 6, in particular lines 42-46**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of predefined behavior at the time the invention was made to combine Ogawa's scanning a document with Burrows preprogrammed e-mail

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address because the user can program an electronic folder to automatically e-mail all of the documents that are stored in that folder to a particular e-mail address.

In regard to claim 46, Owaga did not disclose: "wherein the predefined behavior involves providing controlled access to the document."

Burrows disclosed this in **column 13, in particular lines 44-62**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of providing controlled access at the time the invention was made to combine Ogawa's document structure generation with Burrows providing controlled access to a document because the user can program an electronic folder to display periodic updates to the folder.

In regard to claim 47, Owaga did not disclose: "maintaining a second data structure that includes data defining a document hierarchy for the document collection."

Burrows disclosed this in **column 13, in particular lines 20-32**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of maintaining a second data structure at the time the invention was made to combine Ogawa's second format with Burrows defining a document hierarchy because the second data structure is below the top of the hierarchical arrangement and may include data for that document collection that defines how the electronic folders are organized and maintained in a compound document structure.

In regard to claim 48, "updating the second data structure to include data that defines a link between the data structure of the imported document and a document hierarchy folder or category" was not disclosed by Owaga or Burrows, but it would have been obvious to a person of

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ordinary skill in the art of updating data structures at the time the invention was made to include data that defines a link because the user can find the documents more easily in the document hierarchy that have the same document attributes.

In regard to claim 49, Ogawa did not disclose: “wherein the second data structure includes data linking all documents in the document collection to at least one folder or category.”

Burrows disclosed this in **column 6, in particular lines 18-41**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of data structures at the time the invention was made to combine Ogawa’s data field with Burrows document collection because the document hierarchy contains the information necessary to link the folders to the imported document and the hierarchial folders that are associated with a category.

In regard to claim 50, Owaga did not disclose: “maintaining a third data structure that includes data defining a second document hierarchy for the document collection, or a portion thereof, wherein the third data structure is maintained at a local terminal connected to the computer system.”

Burrows disclosed this in **column 13, in particular lines 21-30**. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of maintaining a third data structure at the time the invention was made to combine Ogawa’s text format with Burrows defining a second document because the second data structure is generated that corresponds to that particular document since the computer readable storage medium for storage has a program that is capable of importing the document into a computer system.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 51-83 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burrows (US 5,797,008).

In regard to claim 51, “importing a document having a first format into the computer system” (**column 1, in particular lines 46-52**), “storing the document in a memory location” (**column 1, in particular lines 54-59**), “automatically extracting attribute data from the document” (**column 9, in particular lines 17-36**) and “generating a data structure for the document, wherein said data structure contains the attribute data in a second format independent of the said first format” (**column 2, in particular lines 3-24**).

In regard to claim 52, “predefining category criteria for a first electronic folder” (**column 15, in particular lines 51-58**) and linking the document to the first electronic folder if the attribute data in the data structure corresponding to the document matches the category criteria (**column 3, in particular lines 48-58**).

In regard to claim 53, “electronically analyzing the attribute data stored in the data structure corresponding to the document” (**column 8, in particular lines 36-57**) and determining

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whether the document is to be automatically linked to the first electronic folder based on the comparison” (**column 6, in particular lines 28-37**).

Burrows did not disclose: “identifying the document on an inclusion list if it is determined that the document is not automatically linked to the first electronic folder,” but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of document identification at the time the invention was made to have an inclusion list because the inclusion list identifies documents that are not included in the category associated with the electronic folder during the process of categorization.

In regard to claim 54, “electronically analyzing the attribute data stored in the data structure corresponding to the document” (column 8, in particular lines 36-57) and “determining whether the document is to be automatically excluded from being linked to the first electronic folder” (**column 6, in particular lines 28-37**)

Burrows did not disclose: “identifying the document on an exclusion list if it is determined that the document is not to be automatically excluded from being linked to the first electronic folder,” but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of document folders and exclusion lists at the time the invention was made to have an exclusion list because the exclusion list identifies the documents that were excluded from the electronic folder during the categorization process and provides the user with the category criteria associated with that category.

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In regard to claim 55, “storing a seed document in the first electronic folder, “ analyzing the seed document” and ‘extracting the category criteria from the seed document” was not disclosed by Burrows, but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of analyzing and storing seed documents and extracting the category criteria at the time the invention was made to have a seed document because categorization is categorizing a document into one or more documents without user interaction and the existing documents and new documents that match are automatically extracted.

In regard to claim 56, “wherein the predefined category criteria is based on user-defined criteria” (**column 5, in particular lines 18-26**).

In regard to claim 57, “monitoring the document modifications” (**column 15, in particular lines 26-41**).

Burrows did not disclose: “automatically linking the document to a second electronic folder if a document modification causes the attribute data to match a set of predefined criteria corresponding to the second electronic folder,” but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of document linking at the time the invention was made to match the predefined criteria because if a user modifies the contents of the document the modification can change the links and the document is modified to reflect the created links with the user’s predefined criteria that correspond to the second electronic folder.

Claim 59 is rejected on the same basis as for claim 34.

Claim 60 is rejected on the same basis as for claim 35.

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Claim 61 is rejected on the same basis as for claim 36.

Claim 62 is rejected on the same basis as for claim 37.

Claim 63 is rejected on the same basis as for claim 38.

In regard to claim 64, 'linking the document with an electronic folder" and "automatically manipulating the document based on a predefined behavior associated with the first electronic folder" was not disclosed by Burrows, but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of document linking and manipulation at the time the invention was made to have a first electronic folder because a user can program a folder with particular behavioral characteristics and may include data for that document collection that defines how the electronic folders are linked and organized.

In regard to claim 65, 'wherein the predefined behavior is user-defined" (**column 5, in particular lines 18-26**).

In regard to claim 66, "wherein the predefined behavior involves e-mailing the document to a preprogrammed e-mail address" (**column 6, in particular lines 42-46**).

In regard to claim 67, "wherein the predefined behavior involves providing controlled access to the document" (**column 13, in particular lines 44-62**).

In regard to claim 68, "generating program instructions thus causing an optical scanner, connected to the computer system, to optically scan the document, wherein the document is a paper-based document" and converting the optically scanned document into an electronic document" was not disclosed by Burrows, but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary

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skill in the art of document scanning at the time the invention was made to have a paper-based document for scanning because the user-defined options allows the user to control the scanner's automatic document feeding.

In regard to claim 69, "wherein the electronic document is a image file" (**column 6, in particular lines 6-11**).

In regard to claim 70, "wherein the electronic document is a text file" (**column 5, in particular lines 59-67 and column 6, in particular lines 1-3**).

In regard to claim 72, 'wherein the electronic document is a word processing document' was not disclosed by Burrows, but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of documents at the time the invention was made for the document to be a word processing document because word processing is prepared in clearly worded, readable text without elaborate design or typography.

In regard to claim 73, "wherein the electronic document contains an image" was not disclosed by Burrows, but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of document images at the time the invention was made for the document to have an image because the import file extracts a pixel map used for generating a image of the first page of a document.

In regard to claim 74, 'wherein the electronic document is an e-mail' (**column 6, in particular lines 42-46**).

In regard to claim 75, "wherein the first format is an HTML format" (**column 9, in particular lines 46-55**).

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In regard to claim 76, “extracting indexing information from the attribute data in the data structure” (**column 2, in particular lines 3-24**).

In regard to claim 77, “monitoring modifications to the document” (**column 15, in particular lines 26-41**) and “extracting updated indexing information” (**column 14, in particular lines 1-19**).

In regard to claim 78, “the attribute data is derived from a data field in the data structure comprising raw text data” was not disclosed by Burrows, but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of raw text data at the time the invention was made to have a data field because the data field shows the raw text that is associated with a corresponding document.

In regard to claim 79, “identifying the document from amongst other documents stored in the computer system utilizing the indexing information” (**column 24, in particular lines 61-67 and column 25, in particular lines 1-7**).

In regard to claim 80, “maintaining a second data structure that includes data defining a document hierarchy for the document collection” (**column 13, in particular lines 20-32**).

In regard to claim 81, “updating the second data structure to include data that defines a link between the data structure of the imported document and a document hierarchy folder or category” was not disclosed by Owaga or Burrows, but it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art of updating data structures at the time the invention was made to include

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data that defines a link because the user can find the documents more easily in the document hierarchy that have the same document attributes.

In regard to claim 82, “wherein the second data structure includes data linking all documents in the document collection to at least one folder or category” (**column 6, in particular lines 18-41**).

In regard to claim 83, “maintaining a third data structure that includes data defining a second document hierarchy for the document collection, or a portion thereof, wherein the third data structure is maintained at a local terminal connected to the computer system” (**column 13, in particular lines 21-30**).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
7. Hahn et al (5,751,287) disclosed document organization and folders.
8. Inoue et al (5,778,352) disclosed electronic document retrieval and storage.
9. Vaithyanathan et al (5,819,258) disclosed hierarchical categories in document collections.
10. Fujisawa et al (5,628,003) disclosed a document storage and retrieval system.
11. Carnegie Mellon University “Informedia (tm) Digital Video Library,” disclosed query processing and image manipulation.

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INQUIRIES

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ella Colbert whose telephone number is (703)308-7064. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black, can be reached on (703)305-9707.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703)308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry).

Or:

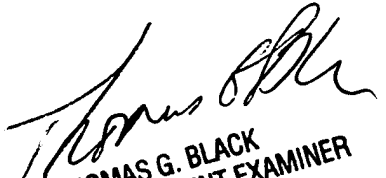
(703)308-5403 (for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT").

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-9600.

Colbert
February 25, 1999


THOMAS G. BLACK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 2700